

To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

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JOHN McELROY, Editor.

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NOTICE.

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LEAVE FOR THE VETERANS.

Commander-in-Chief H. M. Nevius sends us the following copy of a telegram received from the President:
"H. M. Nevius, Commander-in-Chief, Grand Army of the Republic:
"The President has received your telegram, and in compliance with your request has signed an executive order granting to employees of the Federal public service who are members of the Grand Army of the Republic such portion of their annual leave as they may desire to enable them to attend the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic."

About the best use we have heard made of bloodhounds has been in Oklahoma, where they were put on the track of the Night Riders, and it is believed, will bring a speedy relief from that form of rascality.

The New York, New Hampshire & Hartford Railroad is going to make an extensive trial of electric power for freight locomotives, and has ordered several electric locomotives for this purpose.

The Alabama Legislature has attacked the pistol toilet habit with a law prohibiting the carrying of a pistol of less than 24 inches in length, and prohibiting the sale of slugs, dunks or other weapons.

Somehow, a theory has a way of disjoining just when you expect something else. For example, there were six heat prostrations in Washington City July 29, and every one of these was a negro, and mostly young negroes at that. The oldest was only 45 years old, while two of the six were only 22.

The engineers are taking every precaution that science can suggest to prevent damage by earthquakes to the locks on the Panama Canal. They have not only made the retaining walls and other parts of such a mass of concrete as would seem to give entire security, but they are reinforcing this with 7,000 tons of old rails. Part of this is the rail that the French had in use, and the rest is worn out and bent and otherwise damaged rails from the Panama road.

The olive industry in California is making more rapid strides than any other, and 25 miles from Los Angeles is the biggest olive ranch in the world, and 10 times larger than any in Spain. There are over 120,000 olive-bearing trees, which average 50 pounds of olives to the tree. Each acre on the ranch contains 110 trees, which produce 2,000 gallons of olives each season, from which 250 gallons of pure olive oil are extracted. This, at \$2 a gallon, makes a net return of \$500 to the acre.

That tireless person, Col. Wm. F. Stewart, bobs up again with a bill introduced by Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, to make him a Brigadier-General. Col. Stewart is the man who, it will be remembered, made himself so constantly and uniformly disagreeable to the men and officers with whom he was associated that he was finally exiled to a remote Western post, where he had nobody to make uncomfortable by his disagreeableness. He was finally put on the retired list after an examination, and now wants to be made a Brigadier-General. As Stewart had no war service of any kind, it would seem that he has not earned this promotion, and certainly he does not deserve it from the way he has conducted himself during his service.

The costliest railroad in America is said to be the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railroad, just completed from the great coal fields of southwestern Virginia and eastern Kentucky to the cotton district in South Carolina. The road crosses the entire Allegheny Mountains at their widest part, and reaches an elevation of 2,525 feet on the Blue Ridge range. From Dante, Va., to Roanoke, N. C., a distance of 211 miles, there are 35 tunnels, aggregating seven miles in length. One of these, thru the Clinch Mountains, took two years to drive and cost over \$2,000,000. The cuts and fills are innumerable, and some of these the largest and deepest to be found east of the Mississippi River. The largest cut is near the Soldiers' Home at Johnson City, Tenn., and is 85 feet deep, a mile long from grade ends, requiring more than 500,000 cubic yards of dirt. The entire cost of the road was more than \$30,000,000, and the average cost per mile in excess of \$125,000.

THE ST. CLOUD COLONY.

The Strongest Commendations Are From the People Who Know the Country.

Editor National Tribune: Having been one of the Commission selected to supervise the allotments to subscribers of the St. Cloud Colony, I was very much interested in the number of subscribers from widely distributed territory. Practically every State in the Union was represented, including the Canadian Northwest and Cuba. It was not surprising that many subscribers, perhaps the majority, were from the Far West and Northwest. Old comrades who have grown weary of the rigor of that climate now seek a milder one for the years yet remaining, and as one who has recently talked with me, who has been in Florida for two years, said: "I am sure it will add 10 years to my life."

The matter of greatest significance to me as showing the value of the St. Cloud property is the fact that so many subscribers reside in Florida, most of whom live in the vicinity of Kissimmee, people who are on the spot and who know the value of the enterprise. This, to me, is the best recommendation the company could possibly have. The more I look into it and the more I hear from first hands, the more I am persuaded that the St. Cloud project will not only be a success, as that is already assured, but that it offers our comrades an opportunity of acquiring a home at small cost in a climate and amid surroundings that will make their declining years a joy and a blessing.

Respectfully yours,

JNO. R. KING.

Baltimore, Md., July 29, 1909.

THE REPUBLICANS IN VIRGINIA.

The Republicans in Virginia express lively hopes of being able to carry the State. They held a convention at Newport News last week, which showed abundance of interest in the campaign, which must have had its foundation upon reasonable hopes of success. The discussion on the stand that the party would take upon the liquor question occupied parts of two days, and developed the strongest feeling on both sides. The decision of the convention was that the Republicans must take a more advanced stand than the Democrats upon this issue. The Republicans of the eastern part of the State, principally from Norfolk, Richmond and Newport News, were for local option, while those in the mountain districts were strenuous for absolute prohibition. The plank finally adopted is thoro local option, with the provision that no liquor can be sold in any district unless authorized by a vote of the whole County. This is the most advanced step taken by any party in Virginia so far. The rest of the platform charges the Democratic Party with mismanagement and extravagance; demands equal taxation for every section and every man; the elimination of politics from the management of schools; increased pay for the teachers; lengthening of school terms in school districts; for a fair, non-partisan election law; improvement of roads and employment of convict labor upon them; more rigid bank examinations; proper care of the Confederate veterans; and the enactment of a pure food law.

Capt. William P. Kent, of Wytheville, was nominated for Governor and universally conceived to be a very strong candidate. He is the son of a former Democratic Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, a Gold Democrat, who became a Republican 13 years ago, and has been for some years Consul to Guatemala. He is the only Federal official on the State ticket, and has forwarded his resignation as Consul so as to leave him free. He served as a Captain in the Spanish War under Gen. Fitzhugh Lee. All parties say that the ticket and platform are the strongest which the Republicans of Virginia have ever presented.

Of late years the Democrats have usually carried Virginia by a plurality of more than 30,000. Last year Bryan received 52,906 votes to 52,573 votes for Taft, giving Bryan a plurality of 33,342. Three years before Swanson, Democratic candidate for Governor, received 83,544 votes to 45,790 for Lewis, the candidate of the Republicans for Governor and a very excellent man. The Democrats have very decided majorities in all of the 19 Congressional districts except the Ninth, in the extreme southwest. This district borders on east Kentucky and Tennessee, and last year gave 15,693 votes for Campbell Sloop to 11,592 for Byars, Democrat. The next closest districts are the Seventh, where the Democrats have 4,000 majority, and the Fifth, in which is the thriving manufacturing city of Danville. At the last Congressional election the Democratic candidate received 7,079 to 6,388 for the Republican. The Democrats are now in a bitter fight between two rival candidates for Governor, and the Republicans hope to take advantage of this dissension.

AN ERA OF GOOD FEELING.

Certainly the fierce passions which once raged along the western Missouri line have abated to milk-like calmness. We have a story of a mimic war between the Kansas and the Missouri National Guards, in which an army of 1,600 men from Fort Scott raided Camp Hadley, which 1,500 Missouri troops defended. They captured the Missouri storehouses and supplies. The Missouri troops operated from Fort Clinton, and they say that the cannonading was something terrific, and according to all military calculations, both sides were nearly destroyed in the two hours of struggle. The funny part of this thing to the veterans is that Missouri and Kansas troops should be able to play at war without losing their temper. For about 20 years the liveliest war in this whole country was along the Missouri-Kansas border. From 1852 until along in the '70s the things that the Kansas people were doing to the Missourians and the Missourians to the Kansas people were a plenty. The "Border Ruffians" from Missouri and the "Jay Hawkers" from Kansas raided one another with fierce pertinacity, and no man in any County on either side of the border was at all a good subject for life insurance. After the war of the rebellion actually began the Missourians and Kansans went at it more systematically, and one of the greatest troubles of the commanders of the respective departments was to keep the Kansas raiders out of Missouri and the Missouri raiders out of Kansas. The name of Quantrell and his atrocities make one shudder when mentioned, and Quantrell was only one of a host. Nor did the war cease with Appomattox, but was kept up for years afterwards, to the intense annoyance of the Sheriffs and other officers on both sides of the line.

"SECTIONALISM AND ITS FRUITS."

A specimen of the way some men are industriously striving to keep alive and increase the bitterness of the Southerners against the people of the loyal portion of the Union is a pamphlet written by Benj. F. Grady, Professor of Mathematics and the Natural Sciences in Austin College, Huntsville, Tex. While bewailing sectionalism and its pernicious effects upon the country, Prof. Grady has written a pamphlet into which he has infused all the gall that words can convey, and striven his utmost to breed hatred against New England. According to his pamphlet, New England was the whole loyal section of the country, and responsible for the war and all that it brought upon the South. His claim as a historian will appear to the most casual reader as very shallow and perverse. He starts out with the proposition that the New Englanders were an especially mischievous lot, who believed themselves God's chosen people, and commanded to punish and overthrow all others. Of course, he makes out that the Southern people possessed all the virtues and were free from the vices and faults of the Yankees. To support this view he industriously rakes up, in the early archives of the country, all the little instances and trivial occurrences which will reflect reproach upon the New Englanders. He cites some of the instances of the bad conduct of the militia and of the grasping avarice of the people, laying particular stress upon their treatment of the Indians, witches and Quakers. The absurd falsity of this method of procedure is that it is confounding the times with the people. Of course, the same, and we might say worse, truth, if we were disposed to, could be said about the people of the other colonies. The same might be said of the early history of Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and other new countries.

The man that goes muck raking around into any history, ancient or modern, can always find any quantity of muck. Prof. Grady may know something of mathematics, but he exposes a very gross ignorance of ordinary school chemistry when he says: "Cheap whiskey filtered thru charcoal and mixed with rum in about the proportion of four gallons of whiskey to one of rum and then thru a rum distillery was exported." Any school boy would have told him that the cheapest and easiest way to make rum was by the distillation of the molasses brought by sailing vessels from the West Indies to New England. They did not have to mix any whiskey with it. It was more easily and cheaply made the other way. We only mention this to show his ignorance of elementary facts.

When it comes to talking about the slave trade it is "the pot calling the kettle black" for anyone in the South to reproach New England, as all of the colonialists were tarred with the same stick in that particular. Slave trading was a very profitable business, and all that can be said in defense of New England is that their consciences were sooner awakened about trafficking in human flesh, and public opinion was so strongly aroused against it that New England, even before the Revolution, ceased its traffic, while it continued to be so respectable in the South that slave traders flourished and held up their heads with honest men, even as late as the beginning of the war of the rebellion.

South Carolina was the only prevented from declaring in favor of the reopening of the slave trade when the attempt was made to establish the Southern Confederacy by the necessity of bringing Virginia into the Confederacy. Virginia was then living mainly on the proceeds of the sales of her slaves to the rest of the South, and this source of income would have been cut off if South Carolina, Louisiana and other States had been allowed to export cheap negroes directly from Africa and Cuba.

The crowning blunder that Prof. Grady makes is, however, in assuming that New England was the whole thing in the war against the South. It is true that she was quite important in that war, as was every loyal State and County, but numerically and politically she was only a small part of the great Union host. Millions of people who had not so much as seen New England earnestly supported the Union and sent their sons to fight for its salvation. While the New England States did their full duty in the war, the rebellion was crushed by the enormous weight of such States as New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Altogether the New England States furnished 375,131 enlistments, or about one-eighth of the whole number. New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania furnished 914,164, or pretty near three times as many as New England, while the interior furnished 1,098,983 and the Border States 301,062. All of these troops were, it is true, necessary for the triumph of the Union, but Prof. Grady has selected a small unit to lavish all of his diatribes upon. Our colleges and universities have been justly accused of late years of not furnishing teachers with sufficient ability to consider great political and economical

subjects, and Prof. Grady is a conspicuous incident of how far this reproach is just.

GUARANTEEING BANK DEPOSITS.

After the most careful consideration that could be given it by bankers, business men and legislators Texas has passed a law guaranteeing deposits in the State banks. This will go into operation in 1910, and not be amendable for two years. Since the law has been put upon the statute books the bankers and others are studying it carefully as to the likelihood of how it will work out practically. As a rule, all these students are strongly in favor of the principle of the law, and their criticisms are mainly as to the details in its practical working. These criticisms show that while it is easy to put a plank favoring such guaranteeing in a platform, it is a far more serious work to frame a satisfactory law.

The first criticism is that a stockholder in a bank, who may also have deposits in the bank, and certainly should have, will, on account of his being a stockholder, not be allowed to get his deposit until all the others are paid, and it is feared that this will prevent business men from making deposits in the banks in which they have stocks, for fear that their money may be tied up.

The next question is as to when and how the depositors shall get their money. The law says that the depositors shall be paid in full out of the cash of said bank, as far as this will go, and the remainder to be made up from the guarantee fund. There is no specific time mentioned when this payment shall be made, and it is foreseen that there may be injunctions and other delays to tie up the money indefinitely. It will be possible for interested parties to get an order from a Judge taking the bank away from the Commissioner and returning it to its officials.

The question of "available cash" is highly important. If the bank had available cash it would not fail. And while there might be plenty of cash in the guarantee fund during good times, it would speedily be dissipated if there were a number of failures.

The law provides that 75 per cent of the guarantee fund shall be kept in the State banks, consequently each bank that fails will have a part of the fund in its possession, and that part will be tied up during the proceedings. If there is a panic, and a number of banks fail, all of its fund will be tied up.

Still another objection is raised that interest-bearing deposits are not guaranteed or protected by the law. This, it is feared, will work very badly both for the banks and for the depositors, preventing the banks from receiving time deposits, upon which they make most of their money.

Still another objection is raised to the provision which allows banks to be started with a capital of \$5,000 and upward. This will inevitably lead to the starting of an immense number of banks, which will decrease the deposits in the main ones and increase the possibilities of failures and loss.

Under the law, a depositor must make proof of his deposits within 45 days of the closing of the bank, and unless he brings suit within six months his claim is barred. While all the criticisms are friendly and the critics say that they favor the principle of the law, yet it will be seen that the law as enacted is very far from satisfactory. A great many unexpected objections have been raised, with possibilities of the law working much hardship.

THE NUTRITIVE VALUE OF BEER.

The English brewers have unwisely sought to stem the rising temperance tide in their country by alleging the old fallacies about the nutritive qualities of beer. This has attracted the medical and other papers into liberal expositions of the scientific proof of the matter, which is highly detrimental to the claims of the brewers. It is pointed out that in order to get as much true value as there is in a glass of milk a man would have to drink so much beer that the alcohol in it would make him stupidly drunk, if it did not bring him to the verge of delirium tremens. The statement of Baron von Liebig, the great German chemist, is recalled that there is more nutritive value in the flour that one can hold on the point of a table knife than in 40 quarts of the best Bavarian beer. Gautier, the great French chemist and authority on foods, points out that beer contains an immense proportion of the salts that work so disastrously upon the body, and are one of the causes for the hardening of the arteries and a tendency to apoplexy, which proves so fatal to beer drinkers.

Sir William Roberts, in England, and a number of eminent German physiologists have carried on patient and long experiments upon dogs and human beings which have proven that beer is highly detrimental to digestion, interfering to a very marked degree with the digestion of starch, which is the largest component in everybody's food.

A little event in the Mediterranean will cause our British cousins to sit up with a decided start and take lively notice. The aforesaid British cousins have always held the complacent view that they were so far and away above all other peoples in sporting matters that there could be no question about it. This self-sufficiency has been rudely jarred many times by Americans, and now it receives a very stiff jolt from the Germans, who have never been considered in the sporting class. The Captain of a British warship lying at Messina in the Levant challenged the Captain of the German warship Hamburg for a race with a picked crew over a distance of 18,000 feet. He condescendingly offered the Germans a big handicap as being the younger crew. The Germans not only accepted the challenge, but they declined the handicap and won the race brilliantly by the length of 2,250 feet, or about one-seventh of the distance. The Englishmen proved that they were probably never bettered in their having a lighter boat, whereupon the Germans offered to run the race over again in the English boat. It is pleasant to note that the German Captain rewarded his crew for their victory by giving them leave to visit Jerusalem.

STRIKE AT A SOLDIER'S HOME.

Our women don't seem to be waiting for the English suffragets to come over here to tell them about their rights. More or less comely young women are employed as waitresses at the Soldiers' Home at Marion, Ind., and naturally unless they have beaux they will lose much of all that life is worth living for. Recently Maj. George W. Steele, the Governor of the Home, issued an order that all persons not employed in the Home should leave the reservation when taps were sounded at 9 o'clock. This struck directly at the aforesaid beaux, who were promptly fired off the reservation as the bugle began playing, "Say, Deutscher, Will You Fight Mit Sigel?" The next day, just as dinner was announced, the girls, or, as we should say, young ladies, marched out in a body to the complete astonishment and dismay of the hungry veterans in the dining hall. Gov. Steele was immediately notified, and hastened to the scene of battle. He found the girls simply obdurate. Granite was not more immovable than their demands that their beaux should be allowed to stay until 10 or 11 o'clock. They said that the young men could not come out until 8, and from 8 to 9 was entirely too short a time for any young man to make a successful siege of the girl he wanted. Maj. Steele summoned the janitors and other employees to distribute the viands to the waiting soldiers. All accounts say that the old fellows were remarkably patient, and possibly they might have joined in a sympathetic strike in favor of the girls, for each one of them had a vivid remembrance of how it had been with himself in the days gone by. After serving dinner Maj. Steele resumed negotiations with the waitresses, but their obduracy had not abated, and finally the Commandant came down as gracefully as he could and acceded to their demands as to hours. The latest advice says that peace reigns on the West Fork of the Whitewater, and the veterans are getting their meals with the old-time promptness.

DOES CAPITAL PUNISHMENT PREVENT CONVICTIONS?

In a thoughtful article in the American Law Review, Maynard Shipley raises the question whether capital punishment does not prevent convictions in murder cases by deterring the jury from taking the responsibility for a life sentence. He points out that the first State to abolish the death penalty was Michigan, in 1848, and Gov. Austin Blair said:
"Before the abolition of the death penalty murders were not unfrequent, but convictions were rarely or never obtained. Convictions and punishment are now much more certain than before the change was made. The reform has been successfully tried and is no longer an experiment."
It is pointed out that the ratio of convictions in Michigan of persons indicted for murder is 28.82 per cent, whereas in Massachusetts the percentage is but 10 per cent. It is asserted by Mr. Andrew Palm that the convictions in Rhode Island murder trials amount to 5 per cent of the indictments. Wisconsin has abolished the death penalty for this reason, and shows the highest percentage of convictions among nine selected States. Her ratio is 40.5 per cent of the indictments. Maine abolished capital punishment in 1876, and the ratio of convictions at once rose from 15.4 per cent to 64.5 per cent. Colorado abolished the death penalty, but four years later restored it in 1901, leaving the jury the right "to decide in its verdict whether the death penalty shall be life imprisonment or death by hanging." Since that time 59 per cent of the indictments for murder have resulted in convictions. On the other hand, Idaho in three years has indicted 21 persons for murder and not convicted one.

The labor unions generally oppose the death penalty, and John J. Fitzpatrick, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, says that organized labor everywhere stands for the abolition of the extreme penalty.

There seems to us one fatal flaw in this reasoning; that is, no jury is compelled to either find a prisoner guilty of murder in the first degree or let him go free. Every jury has the privilege of finding a prisoner guilty in a less degree than charged, and any juror who has a repugnance to capital punishment can vote for the second degree of the crime, which involves only life imprisonment or even a shorter term.

A BADLY INFORMED YOUTH.

The editor of the St. Joseph Gazette is, in his own estimation, a quite smart young man, who has been Chairman of the Republican State Committee. His father was a good soldier, but the youth thinks he knows a great deal more about the war than his father knew, and he writes such an editorial as this:
"The Pension Department, the largest single item of expense in our National Government and the heaviest drain on the National Treasury, seems to have escaped the searchlight of public investigation in all the recent discussions of tariff and of Treasury deficits. Manifestly both parties are afraid to attack pension frauds, because of the G. A. R. vote. No Congressman, no Senator and no President has had the courage to combat sincerely this amazing scandal."

There is a great work awaiting the American press. This Government pays out over \$150,000,000 annually in pensions. How much of that vast sum is graft and how much is the just reward of meritorious service? No fair American begrudges a pension honorably earned; but why should we pay scores of millions annually to the "sisters and cousins and aunts"? It is well to remember that every year-old infant at the close of the war is now, if living, a man or woman 44 years of age—almost old enough to be self-supporting.

These things hurt the veterans sorely, because the St. Joseph Gazette is a Republican paper, and they are being stabbed from a source whence they naturally expect friendship. Of course, the editor is grossly ignorant of the whole pension system, and his editorial shows that he probably never bestowed five minutes' thought upon the subject. Had he done so he would have had no trouble in finding out that repeated and searching investigation, under the most crucial tests, has demonstrated that the pension roll is the freest from graft and corruption of any of the Government's

expenditures. He would also know that the pension roll to-day is big, because it represents much the biggest war in human history, where there was more fighting, more killing and more wounding than in all the wars of Europe for a century. We are naturally very sorry that a man whose father was so good a soldier should profit so little by his father's example and history. But these things will happen in the best regulated families.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN RUSSIA.

The struggle for religious liberty in Russia is going on energetically. In spite of the Czar's manifesto granting religious liberty, the persecution of other creeds has continued unabated, not only against non-Christian religions, but, as is usually the case, those nearest the orthodox church continued to receive the sharpest hostility. The Old Believers, who follow an ancient form of Greek Catholicism before it was made the state church, and who represent the great mass of the business men and respectable people of moderate means, have been systematically hounded and conversions to their form of belief prohibited. The Old Believers represent what in other countries has been the clean, solid middle-class people, whose method of life and thought has been a constant impeachment of the established church and priesthood. The Duma passed an act giving all citizens the right to choose their own religion, and be further allowed to change it as they wished. Children should have the right to choose their own religion after the age of 14. This act is regarded in Russia as equivalent to the French proceedings in separating the church and state, and the liberal people of Russia exult much over the progress attained. The representatives of the Orthodox Greek Catholic Church fought this law at every step with a vindictiveness that can only be found in church quarrels. The clericals employed language in the discussion that was absolutely too obscene to print in any paper and which quickly drove all the ladies from the hall.

The National Tribune presents as a candidate for a Carnegie medal Conductor Chambers, of the Northwestern Railroad, and he can count on all the paper's influence. His service to humanity fulfills the War Department's requirements for a medal, "in doing something unusual and not in the claimant's line of duty." It seems that he was bringing back 1,700 Black Hills excursionists, among whom were 18 mothers with babies. Near Rapid City, S. D., the babies sent in a general alarm for an immediate supply of milk. This was not available for reasons it is as well not to discuss, and Conductor Chambers, who is a married man, rose to the situation with true heroic-like promptness. Stopping his train near a pasture, he took two train buckets, and, singling out with a practiced eye some high-bred cows available for his purpose, began milking them. The farmers saw the man, and started with pitchforks to prevent being robbed of Jersey cream, but before they could arrive at the point Conductor Chambers had filled his buckets and was making fine time for the train, which he boarded, and gave the signal to start, leaving the gentlemen with the pitchforks looking with open mouths and probably very profane anger at the disappearing train. Eighteen young American citizens had their little babies filled with their supreme satisfaction, and filled with preventing their being stunted in their development into great usefulness to their country and other fellow-citizens.

Prof. J. L. Meriam, of the Teachers' College of the Missouri University, is trying a new experiment in teaching. The idea is to let the child do the things it wants to do, and thereby educate itself. He will have none of the "old bugbear of teaching arithmetic, geography, spelling and grammar." Numbers are taught by games, and there is a similar sugar-coating in all the exercises. Prof. Meriam does not call them "studies," because that would be too formal and compulsory. We are afraid that we shall have to write Prof. Meriam down in our fool class. The education that he is giving will be of mighty little value to the child in its future career. Life is work, and success is only attained by hard work and stern discipline. If there were some way of earning one's bread without the sweat of one's brow and getting a house and clothes without putting in long hours of toil, then Prof. Meriam's method of education might be worth considering. But the tears which are shed by a child in its compulsory learning to read correctly, to master rules of arithmetic, spell properly and to speak and write the English language properly make for the growth of his character and for his success and happiness in future life. There is no absolutely easy road to knowledge any more than there is a comfortable and easy way of raising a field of potatoes or laying up a brick wall. As the old Scotch maxim has it: "Nothing comes without work except dirt and long nails."

President John Quincy Adams had no doubt that the retrocession of a part of the District of Columbia to Virginia was unconstitutional and void. He wrote to a correspondent as follows:
"Quincy, Mass., Nov. 9, 1846.
"Sir: In answer to your letter of the 2d instant, I have no hesitation to say that I hold the act retroceding the County of Alexandria to the State of Virginia as unconstitutional and void. How the Supreme Court of the United States would consider it I cannot undertake to judge, nor how they could carry it into execution should they determine the act unconstitutional. The Constitution of the United States.
"I am very respectfully, etc., your obedient servant."
"John Quincy Adams."

According to the latest statistics, there are 594,867 miles of railroads in the world, not including street railroads and other light constructions. Of these there are 199,385 miles in Europe and 288,058 miles in North America. There is nearly as much railroad in North America as there is in Africa, Asia and Europe put together.

THE JEWISH DIETARY.

In the closing lecture of the Tuberculosis Congress in England, Prof. F. Hunter Boyd paid high tribute to the high value of the Jewish dietary laws, which, he said, had the credit for the well-known good health and longevity of the Jews, and particularly for their immunity from tubercular diseases. He declared the Jewish or Moslem laws and those founded upon them to be a complete text-book of hygiene.

Undoubtedly much of this praise was well bestowed. The Jews have for many centuries been carefully elaborating rules of conduct and diet which would enable them to avoid diseases, preserve health and maintain their existence under the most insanitary conditions. It is said that in the Talmud there can be found a leaf for everything, from finding a dead fly in a room to the proper method of burial. These laws have been carefully thought out, elaborated by endless generations of the best thinkers in Israel, and undoubtedly form the most complete text-book on hygiene in the world.

All the same, physicians are now inclining to the opinion that the immunity of Jews to pulmonary diseases results from natural selection. For ages the greater part of those whom we know as Jews have been living in squalid, crowded quarters in the most insanitary surroundings. As a result those who were liable to pulmonary diseases from bad air and crowded quarters died out long ago and left no offspring. In proof of this it is asserted that the Russian Jews, who have been living much more in the open air than their brethren elsewhere, die off from pulmonary diseases in New York City as rapidly as the Italians and others who have come from the country districts to crowd into the dirty tenements of the lower part of the city.

AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN CHINA.

Events of the past fortnight show our Government has awakened to the importance of exerting a strong influence in China and taking the appropriate steps thereto. The appointment of Charles R. Kane as Minister to China is regarded as an excellent one, and the Chinese have expressed themselves very favorably to him. Then, an important move has been taken to secure a large slice of the projected Chinese loan for our bankers. This will be the beginning of financial transactions which will bring China closer to this country. Russia has been negotiating a treaty, which would give her control of the so-called "Chinese Eastern Railway," and the communities along the line. We have protested strongly against this as virtually an invasion of China by the Russians, a violation of her integrity and opposed to the open-door principle. Our protest will eventually block Russia from acquiring the influence in China that she meditated.

It looks as tho the disorders in Persia are at an end, and that that far-renowned land will have again the regime of peace and justice such as it had not had for a thousand years. Ahmed Mirza, who has been proclaimed Shah, is the second son of his father, and is preferred to his elder brother because the latter's mother was not a Princess of the royal house of Persia. Ahmed Mirza is now in his 13th year, but the Government will be administered by his uncle, a council of 155 members elected by the clergy, nobles, land owners and merchants. Both the British and Russian Governments will aid strongly in supporting the new administration, and will grant Persia a loan which will put her finances on a sound footing.

The Bulletin of the Bureau of Statistics shows a considerable improvement in the business situation, as indicated by the shipments around the Great Lakes. The domestic shipments show an increase of about 65 per cent. The iron ore shipments were more than double those of June, 1908. The lumber shipments were largely in excess of those of last year, and the wheat shipments show a considerable increase for June, tho the total for the year is lower. The shipments of corn and barley were higher, but those of oats and rye lower. The freight traffic thru the Sault Ste. Marie Canal were about 60 per cent higher than in June of last year.

THE STRUGGLE FOR MISSOURI.

John McElroy's "Struggle for Missouri" has now come out, and it is one of the most satisfactory and commendable additions to the history of a time that has appeared anywhere. It is a handsome volume of 342 pages, printed in large type on good, substantial paper and embellished with a number of illustrations of more than usual merit. Two of these are colored pictures; one of the momentous interview between Gen. Lyon and Frank Blair, on one side, and Gov. Jackson and Gen. Sterling Price on the other. The other colored picture is a wonderfully life-like representation of the busy levee of St. Louis before the war. There are fine four-color maps of the battlefields of Wilson Creek and Pea Ridge, with other maps of Missouri and various lines of decoration. Excellent two-color pictures of Gen. Lyons, Fröst, Price, Blair, Fremont, Sigel, Hunter, Hallack and Curtis are scattered thru the book and in addition there are many smaller pictures.

As to the literary and historical character of the book nothing need be said, since the writings of John McElroy are well known and esteemed for their correctness, perspicuity and absolute accuracy. The book tells the story as it has never been told before, of the momentous struggle among men of the highest ability and daring, to save Missouri to the Union. Life-like pen pictures are given of all of those who took conspicuous parts in the great contest, and the book is one that every student of the war should have in his library. It has a permanent value, as it gathers together much material throwing light on that period of the war which has not been before presented in any volume.

The book is sent to any address, prepaid, upon the receipt of \$2.00. Address The National Tribune, Washington, D. C.